

RESEARCH PAPER

How do I do this?

What's the Goal?

- Provide enough information so that another docent is able to talk about an artwork
- Write no more than two pages, not including the bibliography
- List a short bibliography of primary sources
- Maintain the digital format used on the website:
 - *Image*
 - *Title card or checklist information*
 - *Artist's portrait*
 - *Brief quotation by or about the artist*

WordPress and Web Restrictions

- San serif font such as Arial or Verdana
- Size 11 font
- Blank line between paragraphs
- No indentation of first lines of paragraphs
- Do not use the following:
 - *Italics*
 - *Centered text*
 - Underlining
 - **Bolding**
- Use of Microsoft Word is preferred (.doc or .docx)

About Quotations and Footnotes

In your text and bibliography WordPress removes italics, centered text, underlining, and bolding. Furthermore, because the file is more of a scroll than a group of pages, it does not play nicely with footnotes. Avoid footnotes; they will not work.

Quotations, which are usually footnoted, can easily be documented within your text by including the author's name and the page number of the quotation within parentheses, as the following examples show:

- ...[T]he bodies "transcend the stillness of sculpture" (Conner, p. 140).
- "I realized I could put a negative line, so I was, in effect, drawing in negative space" (Arnoldi in Arnoldi, pp. 81-82).
- "The more I worked the more I took out of them" (McLaughlin in Karlstrom interview, p. 18).

Art Object Data

Image

There are many sources for an image:

- Education Office
- Docent website
- Google Images
- Your own photograph

Use mid-size images, i.e., at least 800 pixels on the longer side. Use the .jpg format.

Your image must be submitted as a separate file from your text, and it must be in the following format:

NameOfArtist-TitleOfWork

as in:

Hoffman-LesOrientales.jpg

Do not use any punctuation marks with names or titles.

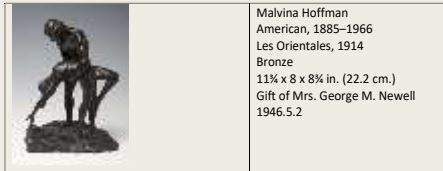
If the artist is not known, enter Unknown.



Malvina Hoffman, *Les Orientales*

Title Card or Checklist Information

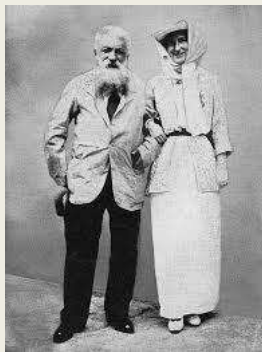
Checklist Information



Format for Research Paper

- Artist Last Name: Hoffman
- Artist First Name: Malvina
- Artist Nationality: American
- Artist Country Active: USA
- Artist Year Birth-Death: 1885-1966
- Object Title: Les Orientales
- Object Date: 1914
- Object Medium: Bronze
- Object Dimensions: 11¼ x 8 x 8¾ in.
- Acquisition/Provenance: Gift of Mrs. George M. Newell
- Acquisition Number: 1946.5.2

Artist's Portrait



August Rodin and Malvina Hoffman, n.d.
Unattributed portrait

"Art is an integral part of life. It has no age and no geography." – Malvina Hoffman

Below the art object data include a photograph or portrait of the artist. It, too, must be submitted as a separate file from the art object image and your text.

Try to find a portrait from about the same time as the art work was completed. Self-portraits by the artist are also an interesting option.

Include the credit or attribution for the image or painting of the artist. Indicate if there is none, as with this image.

Below the image you may include a brief quotation that gives insight into the artist or the work and provide the source of the quotation.

Art and Artist Details

Your submission will look like this:

Image: Hoffman-LesOrientales.jpg

Malvina
Hoffman
American
USA
1885-1966
Les Orientales
1914
Bronze
11¾ x 8 x 8¾ in. (22.2 cm.)
Gift of Mrs. George M. Newell
1946.5.2

Image: Hoffman-WithRodin.jpg

Caption: Auguste Rodin and Malvina Hoffman, n.d., Unattributed portrait

Quote: "Art is an integral part of life. It has no age and no geography." - Malvina Hoffman

When completed, WordPress formats this information into this finished text:



Malvina Hoffman
American, 1885-1966

Les Orientales, 1914
Bronze
11¾ x 8 x 8¾ in. (22.2 cm.)

Gift of Mrs. George M. Newell
1946.5.2



Auguste Rodin and Malvina Hoffman, n.d. Unattributed portrait

"Art is an integral part of life. It has no age and no geography." — Malvina Hoffman

Let's Get Writing...

First Paragraph

Skip two lines after the art object data and begin the text of your paper. Remember, WordPress removes all italics, centered text, underlining, and bolding, so do not use them.

In the first paragraph describe the object using the visual elements. You want to catch your reader's attention and make the art object so interesting that she/he will want to read the rest of your paper. The following ideas suggest the types of things you might discuss:

- What do you see in the work?
- What are its elements (color, shape, line, form, texture, light, dark, mass...)?
- Why did the artist paint this picture or create this sculpture?
- Is it a portrait? Landscape? Real or fantasy? Realistic? Non-representational?
- How has the artist presented the work to elicit a response from the viewer? How has the artist used color or size to affect the viewer?

Think about not only what the visitors would find interesting but also provide the docents with enticing, informative, and accurate information they need to include this art object on their tours.

Next Paragraphs

Describe if the artist used unusual or interesting techniques or materials.

What is it made of?

How was it made?

Is this typical of the artist's work?

Is its style common for the period in which it was created?

Was the artist innovative in his use of material or technique?

How might the artist's choice of material or technique influence how the viewer sees the work?

Discuss any other notable elements of the art work which make it unique and more memorable. Include any anecdotes or brief stories which provide additional interest to the art work or the artist.

Because the paper is to be no longer than two pages, you will have to be very selective in your choices of what to include and what to leave out.

What About the Artist?

After you have described the art object and its creation, provide information about the artist,

Some of the areas you could discuss include:

- Short biography
- Style
- Historical context
- Influence and inspiration
- Cultural significance
- Extraordinary qualities
- Relevant connections to other works in the collection

You will likely not use all of these, but it is important to provide background information relevant to both the art object, the artist, and the period in which it was created.

You can find *Research Paper Guidelines* on the website at:

Provisional>Projects>Research Paper>Research Paper Guidelines

What About You?

Use the final paragraph of your text, the last line before the bibliography, to take credit for your most excellent research paper:

“Prepared for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art Docent Council by [your name] in 2020.”

This not only identifies you as the author of the paper, but also tells other docents whom to ask should they have additional questions about this art work. They may also want to consult some of the material you used to write the paper, for which you next give them a bibliography.

Bibliography

A bibliography contains a list of references you consulted and provides a way for the reader to find more information about the art object and artist. The bibliography comes at the end of your paper, and it is not counted as part of the two-page limitation.

The following examples show how to create a bibliographical entry for the most common types of reference material.

Books:

[Author, last name first. "Title in quotation marks." City of publication: Publisher, year of publication.]

Ashton, Dore. "American Art Since 1945." New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.

Article in a Book:

[Author, last name first. "Title of article." in "Title of book", name of author or editor, pp. page numbers of article. Publication city: Publisher, date of publication.]

Conner, Janis. "The Ethereal Icon: Malvina Hoffman's Worshipful Imagery of Anna Pavlova." In "Perspectives on American Sculpture Before 1925," edited by Taylor Tolles, pp. 130-139. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2003.

Bibliography

Magazine:

[Author, last name first. "Title of article." Name of publication, date of issue, p. page number.]

Winter, David. "Charles Arnoldi/Fuller Goldeen." ARTnews, Summer 1985, p. 101.

Newspaper:

[Author, last name first. "Title of article." Name of newspaper, date of issue, p. page number.]

Anonymous. "Malvina Hoffman Honored at Rites." New York Times, July 14, 1966, 36.

Website:

[Author, last name first. "Title of article or page." Title of the website. URL]

Anonymous. "Malvina Hoffman." Smithsonian American Art Museum.

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/Malvina-Hoffman-2260>

Your Submission

Your paper submission will include the image files (art work and artist portrait) and the research text including bibliography:

Hoffman-LesOrientales.jpg
 Hoffman-WithRodin.jpg
 Hoffman-LesOrientales.docx



Hoffman - Les Orientales | MMA Docer Docent

<http://access.mma.org/hoffman-to-rodin/>



Melvin Hoffman
 American, 1905-1988

Les Orientales, 1914
 Bronze
 17 1/2 x 9 x 8 1/2 in. (222 cm.)

Gift of Mrs. George M. Hewitt
 1946.5.2



Auguste Rodin and Melvin Hoffman, n.d. Unattributed portrait

"Not a an integral part of life, it has no age and no geography." — Melvin Hoffman

RESEARCH PAPER

He aims gently, entwining her waist as she arches backwards, arms extended, palms open, releasing joy or ecstasy. She balances on one foot, her other foot supported by his leg. He leans slightly forward, gazing intently, fixatingly at her emotional abandonment. His arms hold her lovingly, gently, his body easily anchored to the ground, his legs supporting their combined weight. His musculature contrasting with the smooth, supple skin of her strapping body. Nude, unadorned by clothing, free, classic, timeless, sensual, living, tender... the bodies transcend the stillness of sculpture" (Carnes, 140).

These figures by the American sculptor Melvin Hoffman represent Anna Pavlova (1861-1931) and Laurent

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